MISSISSIPPI NOTEBOOK

By TOM ETHRIDGE

SPEED UP, SLOW DOWN

While exerting pressure to speed up race-mixing in Dixie, Washington politicians have allowed labor unionists to slow down our missile program into a dangerous extort. Or so it seems.

Testifying recently before the Senate racketeering investigating committee, B. G. McNabb of the Convair Aircraft Mercury space project said that labor trouble at Cape Canaveral has delayed putting our first astronaut into space by at least six months. Strikes and work stoppages to obtain "premium pay" enabled Russia to get ahead of us in vital space spaces, the space expert told the committee.

READ 'EM AND WEEP

Here are some disturbing developments spotlighted by the Senate investigation:

There have been 270 strikes or work stoppages since missile construction first began in 1957.

While Secretary of Defense McNamara is paid $490 a week, all iron workers at Cape Canaveral average between $520 and $611 weekly.

An apprentice electrician, brother-in-law of a union boss at Canaveral, collects $600 weekly, as much as the Vice President of the United States.

MORE THAN DR. BRAUN

Another electrician has earned as high as $748 a week, more than the combined pay of Admiral Rickover, developer of the nuclear submarine and Dr. Werner Von Braun, space and rocket expert.

Pay of plumbers and pipe fitters at Canaveral ranges from $402 to $733 weekly. Electricians have averaged between $413 and $670 weekly.

WITNESS FEAR OR FAVOR

U. S. Attorney General Robert "Little Brother" Kennedy, speaking last week at the University of Georgia, said he intended to enforce civil rights "vigorously" and speed up integration in schools, etc.

"We will not make or interpret the laws," he declared. "We shall enforce them, without bias or political slant. . . . I hold a constitutional office and I shall perform the duty I have sworn to undertake—to enforce the law in every field and every community.

Mindful of this solemn promise, it is interesting to note that both federal and Florida state laws ban union membership as a condition for getting a job. Yet the Senate investigating committee found illegal pressures have been exerted to force Cape Canaveral workers into labor unions.

A BREAK FOR RUSSIA

One big strike at Canaveral was called by Joseph Morgan, an organizer for Jimmy Hoffa, who demanded that contractors force certain employees to join Hoffa's racketeering union. When this demand was refused, the strike followed. (Meanwhile, Russian projects continued at full speed.)

Sen. McClellan of the investigating committee asked Hoffa's stooge, Morgan, whether he was serving the Communist conspiracy or the United States. Morgan pled the Fifth Amendment, refusing to answer on grounds that a truthful answer might implicate him.

Despite his pledge to "enforce law", Attorney General Kennedy has been something less than "vigorous" in cracking down at Canaveral, it would seem. Or is he pulling his punches because powerful labor elements helped to elect Big Brother?

Union workers and labor bosses getting fat at Canaveral must not have heard the President when he said, "Ask not what the country can do for you, but what you can do for your country."

NAIL ON THE HEAD

The entire matter has been well-summarized in this editorial comment by the Chicago Tribune:

"There is an ounce of gumption in the Administration, in Congress or in the military services which have shown a disposition to tolerate every excess by unions, something would be fast done to chase the union agents out of every military installation."

This dastardly act would seem within the scope of Bobby Kennedy's Department of Justice. Little Brother needs to get on the ball—if he can spare the time from acting as a flunky for the NAACP.

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